

POLICE OFFICER STANDARDS AND TRAINING COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING

January 6, 2011

CONNECTICUT POLICE ACADEMY

MERIDEN, CONNECTICUT

Council Members Present: Mr. Richard P. Boccaccio, Chief Lisa Maruzo-Bolduc, Howard L. Burling, II, Mr. Kurt P. Cavanaugh, Off. William C. Curwen, Jr., Chief Douglas L. Dortenzio, Chief Christopher J. Edson, First Selectwoman Laura L. Francis, Special Agent in Charge Kimberly Mertz, Chief Robert S. Hudd, Chief State's Attorney Kevin E. Kane, Chief Anthony J. Salvatore, Sr., Chief Thomas J. Sweeney, James N. Tallberg, Esq., Commissioner James M. Thomas, and Town Administrator John D. Ward.

Other Attendees: Thomas E. Flaherty, Executive Director, Susan E. Rainville, Director, William Schultz, Director, Ted LeMay, Certification/Accreditation Manager, William E. Klein, Certification/Compliance Officer, Pamela Hayes, Executive Director, Connecticut Police Chiefs Association, Curriculum Manager Tim Coon and Lt. Edwin Henion, CSP.

Council Members Absent: Dr. Amy K. Donahue, Chief Louis J. Fusaro, Mr. Jack Moshier and Chief Harry W. Rilling

CALL TO ORDER

Chief Anthony Salvatore, Council Chairman, called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m.

AMENDED AGENDA

Chief Salvatore advised the Councilors present that there was an amended agenda and he would accept a motion to adopt such amended agenda.

Town Administrator Ward moved to adopt the amended agenda, seconded by Chief Edson. The motion carried.

MINUTES

Off. Curwen moved to approve the minutes of the November 4, 2010 meeting, seconded by Town Administrator Ward. The motion carried.

CHIEFS/PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no comments offered from Chiefs of Police or the Public.

CERTIFICATION COMMITTEE

Request for Comparative Certification

Daniel J. Raywood – West Hartford Police Department

Chief Dortenzio, Chair of the Certification Committee, presented the request of the West Hartford Police Department on behalf of Daniel J. Raywood for a certificate of comparative compliance. Daniel J. Raywood was appointed to the position of Police Officer with the West Hartford Police Department. He served with the Philadelphia Pennsylvania Police Department from December 17, 2007 until shortly before his appointment to West Hartford. He graduated from the Philadelphia Basic Police Academy Recruit Class #352. Daniel J. Raywood has fulfilled all entry level standards for appointment as set forth in Council Regulations.

Chief Dortenzio moved to approve the request of the West Hartford Police Department for a certificate of comparative compliance on behalf of Daniel J. Raywood, subject to his successful completion of 19 specific courses, seconded by Chief Edson. The motion carried.

Michelle W. Wyatt – Norwich Police Department

Chief Dortenzio, Chair of the Certification Committee, presented the request of the Norwich Police Department on behalf of Michelle W. Wyatt for a certificate of comparative compliance. Michelle W. Wyatt was previously employed as a Police Officer with the Caldwell, Idaho Police Department from October, 2004 to July, 2005. In August, 2005 she accepted a position with the Twin Falls, Idaho Police Department where she served in good standing until August, 2010 when she relocated to Connecticut. Michelle W. Wyatt is in the process of fulfilling all entry level standards for appointment as set forth in Council Regulations with the exception of the return of her fingerprints from the FBI, the Controlled Substances test and the Cooper Standards physical fitness test with POSTC Council staff.

Chief Dortenzio moved to approve the request of the Norwich Police Department for a certificate of comparative compliance on behalf of Michelle W. Wyatt, subject to her compliance with all entry levels standards prior to being employed and successful completion of 19 specific courses seconded by Off. Curwen. The motion carried.

Nicholas S. Palladino – East Haven Police Department

Chief Dortenzio, Chair of the Certification Committee, presented the request of the East Haven Police Department on behalf of Nicholas S. Palladino for a certificate of comparative compliance. Nicholas S. Palladino was formerly employed as a Police Officer with the Los Angeles, California Police Department from June 2006 to August, 2008 where he resigned in good standing. Prior to his service in Los Angeles, he was employed as a Police Officer with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs in West Haven, Connecticut from November, 2002 to June, 2006. He is expected to be appointed as a Police Officer with the East Haven Police Department subject to him successfully passing the 50% Cooper Standards physical fitness test. Nicholas E. Palladino has fulfilled all other entry level standards for appointment as set forth in Council Regulations.

Chief Dortenzio moved to approve the recommendation of the Certification Committee and the request of the East Haven Police Department for a Certificate of Comparative Certification on behalf of Nicholas S. Palladino subject to his successful completion of 19 specific courses, seconded by Chief Edson. The motion carried.

Request for Connecticut Police Officer Certification

Sgt. Andre Csizmadia – Metropolitan Transportation Authority Police Department

Andre Csizmadia has been employed with the Metropolitan Transportation Authority Police department and predecessor agency, the Long Island Railroad Police Department since April, 1997. In October, 2003, he was promoted to Sergeant and although he lives in the State of Connecticut, he worked primarily in the State of New York. Recently, a Sergeant position in Connecticut within his Department has become available and he wishes to be considered for the transfer although he has never been certified in Connecticut. MTAPD Police Chief Michael R. Coan on behalf of Sgt. Csizmadia requests that Sgt. Csizmadia be considered for a partial waiver of the requirement of police basic training and that he be granted Connecticut Police Officer certification. Sgt. Csizmadia has met the modified entry level standards as set forth in Council Regulations

Chief Dortenzio moved to approve the request of Chief Michael Coan on behalf of Sgt. Csizmadia for Connecticut Police Officer Certification subject to the satisfactory completion of 10 specific courses, second by Chief Sweeney. The motion carried.

Request to Revoke Police Officer Certification

Joseph D. Esposito – Former Bethel Police Department Officer – Felony Conviction – Hearing Waived

Former Officer Joseph D. Esposito, Bethel Police Department, was arrested by that Department and charged with Threatening 2nd Degree, 53a-62 and Reckless Endangerment, 1st Degree, 53a-63, Class A Misdemeanors. On July 10, 2009, he was arrested by Bethel Police Department and charged with Violations of the Conditions of His Release following the first arrest, 53a-222a and Criminal Trespass, 1st Degree, 53a-107, Class A Misdemeanors. On January 18, 2010, he was arrested by the Waterbury Police Department and charged with Violation of a Protective Order, 53a-222, a Class D Felony. On January 22, 2010, Joseph D. Esposito pled guilty to misdemeanor charges in Danbury Superior Court and received three years probation. On March 2, 2010, Esposito pled guilty to the felony – Violation of a Protection Order in Waterbury Superior Court and was sentenced to a nine month term of incarceration. On October 22, 2010, a certified letter advising him of the intent to revoke his certification and of his right to request a hearing. He has not responded so it is deemed that he has waived his right to a hearing.

Chief Dortenzio moved to approve the revocation of Joseph D. Esposito's Connecticut Police Officer Certification for his felony conviction on Mach 2, 2010 in violation of Section 7-294d (22)(c)(1)(2)(D), seconded by Mr. Ward. The motion carried.

Second Medical Extension Request for Probationary Candidates

Jason McConnell – New Haven Police Department

Initially this item was on the agenda at the request of Sgt. Sydnor, New Haven Police Department with the endorsement of New Haven Police Chief Frank Limon, requesting a second probationary candidate medical extension on behalf of Jason McConnell, New Haven Police Department. Chief Dortenzio, Chairman of the Certification Committee led a brief discussion of this request.

Chief Dortenzio moved to Table the request for a second medical extension on behalf of Jason McConnell of the New Haven Police Department pending additional communication from the New Haven Police Department, seconded by Kurt P. Cavanaugh. The motion carried.

Kyle Malloy – New Haven Police Department

The New Haven Police Department appointed probationary candidate Kyle Malloy to a police officer position on Sept. 8, 2009 and he successfully completed the 171st Training Session at the New Haven Police Academy. During his probationary period, he was taken seriously ill which required medical leave for treatment. Recruit Malloy was unable to complete the field training requirement within his one year time frame which ended Sept. 7, 2010. An initial three month extension was approved by the POST Council to complete field training was granted on September 9, 2010 to expire on December 27, 2010. On December 27, 2010, a second probationary candidate medical extension has been requested by Sgt. David Sydnor, New Haven Police Academy on behalf of Kyle Malloy, endorsed by New Haven Police Chief Frank Limon.

Chief Dortenzio moved to approve a second probationary candidate medical extension to Recruit Kyle Malloy, New Haven Police Department for the purpose of completing the Field Training program for an additional period, not to exceed April 15, 2011, seconded by Chief Edson. Following a brief discussion by Off. Curwen about what medical records should be revealed in these medical extension requests the motion carried.

Michael L. Luzzi, Jr. – Orange Police Department

Michael L. Luzzi, Jr. was appointed a probationary officer by the Orange Police Department on October 23, 2009. He attended the 327th Training Session at the Connecticut Police Academy which concluded on March 30, 2010. Michael L. Luzzi, Jr. was unable to pass the Cooper Standards physical fitness test at the 50 percentile level as required by Council regulations while at the Academy due to an injury and after graduation, he sustained another injury to his hip. An initial three month extension to permit completion of the basic training physical fitness standard was granted by the POST Council on September 9, 2010 to expire January 28, 2011. As of January 4, 2010, Recruit Luzzi has not returned to duty and Chief Robert Gagne of the Orange Police Department on behalf of Michael L. Luzzi, Jr. has requested a second probationary candidate medical extension of three months in order for Recruit Luzzi to recover from his medical conditions.

Chief Dortenzio moved to approve a second probationary candidate extension for Recruit Michael L. Luzzi, Jr. Orange Police Department for the purpose of completing his basic police training requirement for and additional period, not to exceed April 28, 2011, seconded by Off. Curwen. The motion carried.

Michael J. Ruttenber – Westport Police Department

Michael J. Ruttenber was appointed a probationary candidate by the Westport Police Department on February 1, 2010 and he successfully completed the 328th Training Session at the Connecticut Police Academy. Michal J. Ruttenber reported to active military duty on September 12, 2010 and was deployed to Afghanistan on or about February 1, 2011 for an estimated 13 to 14 months. Recruit Ruttenber needs to complete 112 hours of required Field Training and his probationary status is due to expire on January 21, 2011. The Westport Police Department has submitted a request that the Council grant him a probationary candidate extension to June 15, 2012 to allow his return from Afghanistan and the completion of his required training.

Chief Dortenzio moved to approve an extension of probationary candidate status for Recruit Michael J. Ruttenber, Westport Police Department to fulfill his military obligation and complete his required field training by June 15, 2012, seconded by Howard Burling. The motion carried.

Application to Commence a Basic Police Training Academy

Waterbury Police Department

Chief Dortenzio, Chairman of the Certification Committee presented a request to commence a basic Police Training Academy from Chief Michael J. Gugliotti, Waterbury Police Department to commence on or about January 10, 2011. The Department anticipates thirty recruits comprised of members from their own department and several departments from the region. On November 17, 2010, the Certification staff conducted an on-site inspection of the Waterbury Police Academy. The Academy Certification checklist revealed that the Waterbury Police Academy was in compliance with 80 criteria areas while noting that the schedule is tentative and some lesson plans need to be update.

Chief Dortenzio moved that the approval be granted to the Waterbury Police Department to conduct a Basic Police Officer Recruit Training Academy for a maximum of thirty recruits subject to 10 conditions noted in Chief Dortenzio's report, seconded by Chief Sweeney. The motion carried.

Request for an Extension to Commence a Basic Police Training Academy

Bridgeport Police Department

Chief Dortenzio, Chairman of the Certification Committee presented a request of the Bridgeport Police Academy for an extension to commence the Academy from the previously Council granted authorization on November 4, 2010. The Agency has not completed recruiting, screening and hiring of the fifty candidates that they are considering.

Chief Dortenzio moved that the request of the Bridgeport Police Department to be granted an extension to commence a Police Officer Basic Training Academy be approved for an additional 90 days, not later than May 3, 2011, seconded by Off. Curwen. The motion carried.

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

Report on the Status of On Line Training and Consideration of a Pilot Program to Grant Review Credit Hours – For One On-Line Course

Chief Sweeney, Chairman of the Curriculum Committee reported that the Committee had met with Curriculum Manager Tim Coon to further discuss the entire issue and develop a concept for Field Services review, approval and procedures. Chief Sweeney provided an overview of discussions up to this point regarding this issue and advised that the Committee had a motion for Council consideration at this meeting. Discussion ensued about the selection of a pilot course and the consensus was to establish a pilot program and evaluate staff resources that would need to be committed to proceed with this pilot course.

Chief Sweeney moved that the Council approve an online training Pilot Program for granting of review credit hours for POSTC re-certification. This program is to consist of a survey of departments to gauge interest, one online course and a work flow process evaluation to determine impact on staff workload, seconded by Comm. Thomas and Chief Dortenzio. The motion carried.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Flaherty reported to the Council on the following activities which have occurred since the last Council meeting:

The Executive Director and Mrs. Rainville met with Deputy Chief State's Attorney John Risotta and Assistant State's Attorney Robert Brennan regarding a negotiated financial award for dedicated financial crimes training.

The Executive Director and Director Schultz attended Turkey Tuesday in Hartford where the Junior Class collected donations and food for the Food Share bank in Hartford co-sponsored by the Bank of America.

The Academy hosted a visit and tour for approximately 20 Korean Police Chiefs visiting the University of New Haven and Accreditation Manager Ted LeMay served as host and escort.

The Executive Director and Chief Salvatore attended a meeting in Colchester to discuss Municipal Policing.

The Executive Director attended the State Police Graduation.

The Executive Director and Ted LeMay conducted a staff meeting to brief staff on the upcoming CALEA on-site visit.

Mrs. Rainville and the Executive Director attended the Children, Youth and police Conference.

The Executive Director attended the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association Board of Directors Meeting and the Winter Meeting.

Staff hosted Family Night for the 331st Session at the Academy.

The Executive Director participated in a telephone conference with Ass. Atty. General Peggy Chapple regarding pending litigation.

The Executive Director attended the Curriculum Meeting on on-line training and the Certification Committee Meeting.

Chief Salvatore and the Executive Director met with State Representative Altobello regarding a complaint that he received about the noise generated by our Firearms Range.

The Executive Director attended a Homeland Security Council Coordinating Committee Meeting.

We had our CALEA on-site from December 12th to 15th, 2010.

We now have an Intern working out of the Office of the Executive Director from Goodwin College

The Chairman asked the Executive Director to extend the thanks of the Council to the Junior Class for its fundraising on behalf of the Hartford Food Share Program.

BASIC TRAINING DIVISION REPORT

William Schultz, Director of Basic Training was in attendance at the meeting and provided a report on the status and statistics of the Basic Training Division which was also included in the Councilors packages.

IN-SERVICE TRAINING DIVISION REPORT

Susan Rainville, Director of the Field Services Training Division indicated that the Divisions Training Operations Report for November, 2010 to December, 2010 was included in the Council Package for this meeting. Director Rainville reviewed the POSTC Training Calendar for January, 2011 to March, 2011 providing a description of the important offerings and the projected attendance. Director Rainville discussed a selection of additional courses that she and her staff have been able to offer in addition to the current course calendar. She also reported on Additional Courses Under Consideration for the period of April to June, 2011.

ACCREDITATION MANAGER'S REPORT

Ted LeMay provided a report to the Council on the CALEA on-site that took place from December 12 to 15, 2010 and described the activities of the Assessors. He advised that the two CALEA Assessors are going to recommend to the Commission on Law Enforcement Accreditation that the Academy be re-accredited.

COMPLIANCE OFFICER'S REPORT

William Klein gave a certification division report to the Council. He briefed the Council on his activities since the last Council meeting and advised that his audit reports and inspection reports were included in the material distributed to the Council. He also reported that included in the Council package was a copy of General Notice 10-03 that was distributed advising of our New Connecticut Police Officer Decertification On-Line Database.

CORRESPONDENCE

Chief Salvatore reported that there were two items of correspondence included in the Council Package for review including;

A letter from Chief Mark A. Palmer, Chief of Police of the Coventry Police Department to CALEA endorsing our efforts towards re-accreditation.

An e-mail from Officer Rob Riccoban, West Hartford Police Department commending our staff on the Basic Firearms Instructors Program.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to come before the Council.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to come before the Council.

ADJOURNMENT

A Motion was made by Chief Sweeney to adjourn the meeting which was seconded. The motion carried

Thomas E. Flaherty

Executive Director